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Descripti nField of the Invention

5 This invention relates to compositions useful as low calorie fat materials. The invention further relates to the fat materials in low calorie foods and as a method for reducing serum cholesterol.

Background of the Invention

10 One of the most common metabolic problems among people today is obesity. This condition is primarily due to ingestion of a greater number of calories than are expended. Fat is the most concentrated form of energy in the diet, with each gram of fat supplying approximately 9 calories. Overall, fat constitutes about 40% of the total calories in the diet.

Triglycerides constitute about 90% of the total fat consumed in the average diet. One method by which 15 the caloric value of edible fat could be lowered would be to decrease the amount of triglyceride that is absorbed in the human system since the usual edible triglyceride fats are almost completely absorbed (see Lipids, 2, H. J. Deuel, Interscience Publishers, Inc., New York 1955, page 215). A low calorie fat offers a convenient and practical method by which obesity can be prevented or overcome.

An Executive Summary prepared by the Committee on Diet, Nutrition and Cancer, National Academy of 20 Sciences, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C., pp. 4-5 (1982), discusses a possible link between cancer and the intake of fat, i.e., total dietary fat, saturated fat, polyunsaturated fat, and cholesterol. Epidemiological studies have repeatedly shown an association between dietary fat and the occurrence of cancer at several sites, especially the breast, prostate, and large bowel. The data are not entirely consistent, however. Like epidemiological studies, numerous experiments in animals have shown that dietary fats 25 influence tumorigenesis, especially in the breast and the colon.

Pathological conditions which can afflict warmblooded animals can involve the absorption of cholesterol, and associated hypercholesterolemia. For example, epidemiological studies have demonstrated with few exceptions that populations consuming large quantities of saturated fat and cholesterol have a relatively high concentration of serum cholesterol and a high mortality from coronary heart disease. Conversely, the 30 serum cholesterol levels and the mortality from coronary disease are low in populations with a low consumption of saturated fat and cholesterol.

The National Institutes of Health Consensus Development Conference published "Lowering Blood Cholesterol to Prevent Heart Disease", in JAMA, Vol. 253, No. 14, pp. 2080-2086 (1985). It was concluded that elevation of blood cholesterol levels is a major cause of coronary artery disease, and that lowering 35 definitely elevated blood cholesterol levels (specifically, blood levels of low-density lipoprotein [LDL] cholesterol) will reduce the risk of heart attacks caused by coronary heart disease. The Panel recommended appropriate changes in the diet, particularly a reduction in the amount of fat eaten, in order to reduce blood serum cholesterol levels.

Hence, there is a need for ways to reduce the amount of triglyceride fat in the diet, in order to reduce 40 the risks of obesity, cancer, and heart disease.

Low calorie fats which can replace triglycerides are described by Mattson et al. U.S. Patent 3,600,186 to Mattson et al. discloses low calorie, fat-containing, food compositions in which at least a portion of the triglyceride content is replaced with a polyol fatty acid ester, said polyol fatty acid ester having at least four fatty add ester groups with each fatty acid having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.

45 U.S. Patent 4,005,196 to Jandacek et al. discloses the low calorie fat-containing food compositions of the Mattson et al. patent, in combination with sufficient fat-soluble vitamin selected from the group consisting of vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E and vitamin K.

An article in the J.Nutrition (106, 6 pp. 747-752, June 1976) by Mattson et al. is concerned with the effect of sucrose polyester on Vitamin A metabolism, a further article by Mattson et al. (J.Nutrition 109, 10 50 pp.1688-1693, Oct.1979) relates to the effect of sucrose polyester on the absorption of dietary cholesterol, while a third article (Fallat et al., Am.J.Clin.Nutrition 29 pp.1204-1215, November 1976) relates to the lowering of plasma cholesterol by a dietary agent comprising sucrose polyester. Furthermore none of the Journal Articles disclose the rheological properties recited as critical for the purposes of the claimed invention.

55 U.S. Patent 3,954,976 to Mattson et al. describes pharmaceutical compositions for inhibiting the absorption of cholesterol comprising effective unit dosage amounts of a polyol fatty acid ester having at least four fatty acid ester groups, and a method for treating and/or preventing hypercholesterolemia in an animal comprising systematically administering to such animal successive therapeutically effective doses of

said polyol fatty acid ester.

The esters disclosed in the Mattson et al. and Jandacek et al. patents are effective fat substitutes for use in low calorie food products or in pharmaceutical compositions for controlling hypercholesterolemia. Unfortunately, regular ingestion of moderate to high levels of these esters can produce an undesirable "laxative" effect, namely, leakage of the ester through the anal sphincter. One way to prevent this undesirable laxative effect is to formulate the esters so that they are completely solid at body temperature.

Another means of preventing the undesirable laxative effect is through the addition to the ester of anti-anal leakage agents such as those described in U.S. Patent 4,005,195 to Jandacek. This patent discloses anti-anal leakage agents which include solid fatty acids (melting point 37 °C or higher) and their triglyceride source, and solid polyol fatty acid polyesters. Specifically, the agents are selected from the group consisting of: edible C₁₂ and higher saturated fatty acids, and their edible salts; edible, digestible sources of C₁₂ and higher saturated fatty acids; edible, nonabsorbable, nondigestible solid polyol fatty acid polyesters having at least 4 fatty acid ester groups, wherein the polyol is selected from the group consisting of sugars and sugar alcohols containing from 4 to 8 hydroxyl groups and wherein each fatty acid group has from about 8 to about 22 carbon atoms; and edible, nondigestible esters of alpha-branched chain C₁₀-C₁₈ fatty acids.

Completely solid esters, and solid triglycerides or esters used as anti-anal leakage agents, have drawbacks when used in low calorie food compositions. An ester or triglyceride having a high solids content tastes "waxy" in the mouth when ingested. It would be desirable to have a low calorie fat material that is still effective at reducing calories and cholesterol, and that can also have a relatively low solids content so that it does not taste waxy in the mouth. At the same time, it is critical that this fat material not produce an undesirable laxative side effect.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a low calorie fat material for use in low calorie food compositions and as a method for reducing serum cholesterol.

It is another object of this invention to provide a fat material that does not cause a laxative side effect.

It is a further object of this invention to avoid the laxative side effect without the need for use of added anti-anal leakage agents.

These and other objects of the invention will be made clear by the disclosure herein.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention is a composition of matter comprising an edible, wholly or partially nondigestible low calorie fat material having a non-Newtonian pseudoplastic rheology at body temperature. In particular, at 100 °F (37.8 °C) the fat material has: (a) a viscosity of at least 2.5 poise at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 4.0 poise at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹, and a viscosity of at least 25.0 poise at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹; (b) a yield point of at least 2,500 dynes/cm²; (c) a thixotropic area of at least 0.20 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²-sec.; and (d) a liquid/solid stability of at least 50%.

The composition is useful as a substitute for triglyceride fats in low calorie fat-containing food products, and as a method for reducing serum cholesterol.

Detailed Description of the Invention

By "low calorie fat materials" is meant edible materials which can replace triglyceride fats or oils in the human diet. These materials provide the benefits of triglyceride fats and oils, i.e., lubricity and flavors.

By "wholly nondigestible" is meant that substantially all of the material is not digested by the body. It passes through the digestive system substantially the same as when it was ingested. The term "partially nondigestible" means that at least 30% of the material is not digested. Preferably at least 70% of the material is not digested.

By "liquid/solid stability" as used herein is meant that the liquid portion of the material does not readily separate from the solid portion at body temperature, i.e., the material appears to be a solid even though up to about 95% of it is liquid. Liquid/solid stability is measured by centrifuging a sample of the material at 60,000 rpm for one hour at 100 °F (37.8 °C). Liquid/solid stability is defined as: 100% minus the percentage of the material that separated as a liquid after centrifuging.

The present invention is concerned with the rheology of the low calorie fat materials at body temperature (98.6 °F, 37 °C) because they must be stable and viscous at body temperature to eliminate a laxative side effect. However, the measurements herein were done at 100 °F (37.8 °C) as a matter of convenience and for easier calibration of instruments, and the invention is defined in terms of properties at 100 °F (37.8 °C). It is understood that measurements done at 100 °F (37.8 °C) are very close to measure-

ments at body temperature, and they conservatively state the rheological properties at body temperature since a lower temperature increases the viscosity.

The fat materials herein exhibit unexpected rheology and liquid/solid stability at body temperature. For example, specially synthesized intermediate melting sucrose fatty acid polyesters which are 12% solid and 88% liquid at body temperature exhibit non-Newtonian pseudoplastic flow properties, are very viscous and have excellent liquid/solid stability. This is in contrast to the properties of a mixture containing 88% of a liquid sucrose polyester and 12% of a solid sucrose polyester. At body temperature the mixture of 12% solid sucrose polyester and 88% liquid sucrose polyester separates into liquid and solid portions. Additionally, the mixture has a low viscosity. The specially synthesized sucrose polyesters, on the other hand, exhibit pseudoplastic flow and surprising viscosity and liquid/solid stability at relatively low levels of solids.

A benefit of the low calorie fat materials' high viscosity and liquid/solid stability is that ingestion of the materials does not result in an undesirable laxative side effect. Being viscous and stable, the materials pass from the digestive tract through the anal sphincter in much the same manner as normal feces. Hence, the materials of this invention can be safely ingested without adding anti-anal leakage agents.

Another benefit accrues from the fact that the present fat materials are able to retain their high viscosity and stability at relatively low solids content levels. When the compositions are ingested, less solids are perceived in the mouth, so the compositions taste less waxy.

The low calorie fat materials of this invention are thought to be homogenous systems. While not intended to be bound by theory, evidence of networking between the solid crystals and liquid of the materials has been discovered which may be involved in the surprisingly high liquid/solid stability and viscosity of the materials at body temperature.

The present invention, then, relates to a composition of matter comprising an edible, wholly or partially nondigestible low calorie fat material having physical chemical properties such that it has a non-Newtonian pseudoplastic rheology at 100°F (37.8°C). In particular, at 100°F (37.8°C) the fat material has: (a) a viscosity of at least 0.25 Pa.s (2.5 poise) at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 0.40 Pa.s (4.0 poise) at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹, and a viscosity of at least 2.5 Pa.s (25.0 poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹; (b) a yield point of at least 250 Pa (2,500 dynes/cm²); (c) a thixotropic area of at least 0.20 x 10⁵ Pa.s⁻¹ (0.20 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²-sec.); and (d) a liquid/solid stability of at least 50%.

Viscosity, yield point, and thixotropic area are well known rheological properties, and can be measured by use of an instrument such as a plate and cone viscometer (e.g., a Ferranti-Shirley viscometer, manufactured by Ferranti Electric, Inc., 87 Modular Ave., Commack, NY 11725). The basics of rheology are discussed in Idson, "Rheology: Fundamental Concepts," Cosmetics and Toiletries, Vol. 93, pp. 23-30 (July 1978). "Viscosity" is a measure of the internal friction resisting the movement of each layer of fluid as it moves past an adjacent layer of fluid. The "yield value" is the amount of shearing stress that must be applied before a material will begin to flow. Idson defines "thixotropy" as a reversible gel-sol-gel transition caused by the building up of a definite structure within the material. The gelled structure upon shaking or stirring becomes a sol, which when allowed to remain undisturbed, becomes gelled again.

To measure viscosity, yield point, and thixotropic area of a sample of the fat material of this invention, a plate and cone viscometer is used to record a rheogram, which is a plot of shear stress versus shear rate. Viscosity and yield point are calculated from points on the rheogram curve, and the thixotropic area is the area within the curve (also known as the "hysteresis loop"). The discussion of this method in Idson is incorporated herein by reference. Additional details are provided below under the Analytical Methods section.

Preferably, at 100°F (37.8°C) the low calorie fat materials of this invention have a viscosity of at least 0.5 Pa.s (5 poise) at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 2.0 Pa.s (20 poise) at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹, and a viscosity of at least 20 Pa.s (200 poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹. The preferred yield point of the compositions is at least 500 Pa (5,000 dynes/cm²), and the preferred thixotropic area is at least 0.75 x 10⁵ Pa.s⁻¹ (0.75 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²-sec). Preferably, the compositions have a liquid/solid stability of at least 90%.

Most preferably, at 100°F (37.8°C) the low calorie fat materials have a viscosity of at least 0.8 Pa.s (8 poise) at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 3.0 Pa.s (30 poise) at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹, and a viscosity of at least 40 Pa.s (400 poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹. The most preferred yield point of the compositions is at least 1500 Pa (15,000 dynes/cm²), and the most preferred thixotropic area is at least 1.00 x 10⁵ Pa.s⁻¹ (1.00 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²-sec).

The preferred upper limit of the viscosity of the fat materials of this invention is 1 x 10⁴ Pa.s (1 x 10⁵ poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹, and 100 Pa.s (1,000 poise) at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹. The fat materials must have pseudoplastic flow properties as defined herein.

Iodine Value is a measure of the degree of unsaturation of fatty acids. The low calorie fat materials of this invention preferably have an Iodine Value of from 36 to 55.

The Solid Fat Content value (SFC) provides a reasonable approximation of the percent by weight solids of a particular fatty material at a given temperature. The present low calorie fat material preferably has a Solid Fat Content at 100°F (37.8°C) of at least 5%. Most preferably, the Solid Fat Content at 100°F (37.8°C) is at least 10%. The low calorie fat material preferably has a complete melting point higher than 98.6°F (37°C).

The low calorie fat materials of the present invention are selected from sugar fatty acid polyesters and sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters, and mixtures thereof, the sugars and sugar alcohols containing from 4 to 8 hydroxyl groups.

Sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters comprise sugars or sugar alcohols, and fatty acids. The term "sugar" is used herein in its conventional sense as generic to mono- and disaccharides. The term "sugar alcohol" is also used in its conventional sense as generic to the reduction product of sugars wherein the aldehyde or ketone group has been reduced to an alcohol. The fatty acid ester compounds are prepared by reacting a monosaccharide, disaccharide or sugar alcohol with fatty acids as discussed below.

Examples of suitable monosaccharides are those containing 4 hydroxyl groups such as xylose, arabinose, and ribose; the sugar alcohol derived from xylose, i.e., xylitol, is also suitable. The monosaccharide erythrose is not suitable for the practice of this invention since it only contains 3 hydroxyl groups; however, the sugar alcohol derived from erythrose, i.e. erythritol, contains 4 hydroxyl groups and is thus suitable. Among 5 hydroxyl-containing monosaccharides that are suitable for use herein are glucose, mannose, galactose, fructose, and sorbose. A sugar alcohol derived from fructose, glucose, or sorbose, e.g., sorbitol, contains 6 hydroxyl groups and is also suitable as the alcohol moiety of the fatty acid ester compound. Examples of suitable disaccharides are maltose, lactose, and sucrose, all of which contain 8 hydroxyl groups.

In preparing sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters of the present invention a sugar or sugar alcohol compound such as those identified above must be esterified with a mixture of fatty acids having from 8 to 22 carbon atoms. Examples of such fatty acids are caprylic, capric, lauric, myristic, myristoleic, palmitic, palmitoleic, stearic, oleic, ricinoleic, linoleic, linolenic, eleostearic, arachidic, behenic, and erucic. The fatty acids can be derived from suitable naturally occurring or synthetic fatty acids and can be saturated or unsaturated, including positional and geometric isomers. The fat materials of this invention are mixed esters of fatty acids, rather than esters of a single type of fatty acid.

Fatty acids per se or naturally occurring fats and oils can serve as the source for the fatty acid component in the sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid ester. For example, rapeseed oil provides a good source for C₂₂ fatty acid. C₁₆-C₁₈ fatty acid can be provided by tallow, soybean oil, or cottonseed oil. Shorter chain fatty acids can be provided by coconut, palm kernel, or babassu oils. Corn oil, lard, olive oil, palm oil, peanut oil, safflower seed oil, sesame seed oil, and sunflower seed oil, are examples of other natural oils which can serve as the source of the fatty acid component.

The sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters suitable for use herein can be prepared by a variety of methods well known to those skilled in the art. These methods include: transesterification of the sugar or sugar alcohol with methyl, ethyl or glycerol fatty acid esters using a variety of catalysts; acylation of the sugar or sugar alcohol with a fatty acid chloride; acylation of the sugar or sugar alcohol with a fatty acid anhydride; and acylation of the sugar or sugar alcohol with a fatty acid, per se. As an example, the preparation of sugar and sugar alcohol fatty acid esters is described in U.S. Pat. No. 2,831,854.

A characterizing feature of the sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters useful in this invention is that they predominantly contain at least 4 fatty acid polyester groups. Sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyester compounds that contain 3 or less fatty acid ester groups are digested in the intestinal tract much in the manner as ordinary triglyceride fats, but sugar or sugar alcohol fatty acid polyester compounds that contain four or more fatty acid ester groups are digested to a lesser extent and thus have the desired low calorie properties for use in this invention.

Highly preferred low calorie fat materials according to this invention are sucrose fatty acid polyesters. Preferred sucrose fatty acid polyesters have the majority of their hydroxyl groups esterified with fatty acids. Preferably at least 85%, and most preferably at least 95%, of the sucrose fatty acid polyesters are octaesters, heptaesters or hexaesters, and mixtures thereof. Preferably, no more than 35% of the esters are hexaesters or heptaesters, but at least 60% of the sucrose fatty acid polyesters should be octaesters. More preferably, at least 70% of the polyesters are octaesters.

In order to provide the required physical properties, the sucrose fatty acid polyesters of this invention are preferably esterified with particular kinds of fatty acids. Preferably, at least 80%, and most preferably at least 90%, of the fatty acids are mixtures of palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic, and behenic acids.

More specifically, the following is a preferred fatty acid composition: from 9% to 12% palmitic; from 35% to 53% stearic; from 19% to 43% oleic; from 2% to 17% linoleic; from 0% to 2% linolenic; from 0% to 2% arachidic; from 0% to 10% behenic; and from 0% to 2% erucic.

The following fatty acid composition is most preferred: from 9% to 12% palmitic; from 42% to 53% stearic; from 19% to 39% oleic; from 2% to 17% linoleic; from 0% to 2% linolenic; from 0% to 2% arachidic; from 0% to 10% behenic; and from 0% to 2% erucic.

The low calorie fat materials of the present invention can be used as a partial or total replacement for normal triglyceride fat in any fat-containing food composition to provide low calorie benefits. In order to obtain a significant low calorie effect, it is necessary that at least about 10% of the fat in the food composition, or 33% of the caloric value of the food, comprises the low calorie fat materials. On the other hand, very low calorie and thus highly desirable food compositions of the invention are obtained when the fat comprises up to 100% of the fat materials of this invention, and from 25% to 100% of the calories.

The low calorie fat materials of the present invention, and particularly sucrose polyesters, are useful in a wide variety of food and beverage products. For example, the fat materials can be used in the production of baked goods and baked good mixes, such as cakes, brownies, muffins, cookies, bar cookies, wafers, biscuits, pastries, pies, and pie crusts. Preferred cookies include sandwich cookies and chocolate chip cookies, particularly the storage-stable dual-textured cookies described in U.S. Patent 4,455,333 of Hong & Brabbs. The baked goods can contain fruit, cream, or other fillings. Other baked good applications include breads and rolls, crackers, pretzels, pancakes, waffles, ice cream cones and cups, yeast-raised baked goods, pizzas and pizza crusts, and baked farinaceous snack foods.

The low calorie fat materials can be used alone or in combination with other regular or reduced calorie fats to make shortening and oil products. These products include shortenings, margarines, lards, edible oils such as liquid oils and frying oils, cooking and salad oils, popcorn oils, salad dressings, and mayonnaise. Additionally, the fat materials can be contained in foods that are fried in oil, such as Pringle's, potato chips, corn chips, tortilla chips, other fried farinaceous snack foods, French fries, doughnuts, fried pies (e.g., turnovers), crullers, and fried chicken.

Dairy products and artificial dairy products can also be made with the low calorie fat materials. For example, they are useful in the production of butter, ice cream and other fat-containing frozen desserts, yogurt, and cheeses, including natural cheeses, processed cheeses, cream cheese, cottage cheese, cheese foods and cheese spreads. The fat materials can be used to make milk, cream, sour cream, buttermilk, and coffee creamer (frozen or powdered). Other dairy beverages and dairy desserts such as puddings can also be made.

The low calorie fat materials can be used as entrees or in frozen dinners, with or without meats. They can be used in meat products such as hamburgers, hot dogs, frankfurters, wieners, sausages, bologna and other luncheon meats. Additionally, the fat materials are useful in canned meats, including pasta/meat products, stews, chili con carne, hashes, barbecues, sandwich spreads, and canned fish (e.g., tuna or salmon in oil). Meat analogs made from textured vegetable protein can contain fat materials in place of the usual fat. The fat materials can also be used to make tofu and various kinds of protein spreads.

Among the many other uses for the present low calorie fat materials are the production of sweet goods and confections, for example, candies, chocolates, chocolate confections, frostings and icings, syrups, whipped toppings (frozen or aerosol), and cream fillings, fruit fillings, and other fillings. Synthetic nuts and nut butters can also be made with the fat materials, especially peanut butter and sweetened nut spreads. The fat materials are useful in various kinds of soups, dips, sauces (e.g. tartar sauce and barbecue sauce), and gravies. Poultry and livestock feeds, and pet foods, can be made with the fat materials. Lastly, they can be used to make cooking sprays, egg substitutes, and vegetable product beverages.

The low calorie fat materials are particularly useful in combination with particular classes of food and beverage ingredients. For example, an extra calorie reduction benefit is achieved when the fat materials are used with noncaloric or reduced calorie sweeteners. Examples of sweeteners are aspartame, saccharin, acesulfame, alatan, thaumatin, dihydro-chalcones, cyclamate, sterioside, synthetic alkoxy aromatics, such as dulcin and P-4000, suosan, miraculin, monellin, cyclohexylsulfamates, substituted imidazolines, n-substituted sulfamic acids, oximes, acesulfam-K, and rebaudioside-A, and peptides.

Various bulking agents are useful in combination with the low calorie fat materials in many food compositions. The bulking agents can be nondigestible carbohydrates, for example, polydextrose, carboxymethylcellulose, carboxyethylcellulose, and tofu. Other suitable bulking agents include hydrocolloids, starches, dextrans, maltodextrins, polyols, including sugar alcohols, e.g. gums, sorbitol and mannitol, and carbohydrates, e.g. lactose.

The low calorie fat materials can be used in combination with other noncaloric or reduced calorie fats, such as branched chain fatty acid triglycerides, triglycerol ethers, polycarboxylic acid esters, sucrose

polyethers, neopentyl alcohol esters, silicone oils/siloxanes, and dicarboxylic acid esters. Other partial fat replacements useful in combination with fat materials are medium chain triglycerides, highly esterified polyglycerol esters, acetin fats, plant sterol esters, polyoxyethylene esters, jojoba esters, mono/diglycerides of fatty acids, and mono/diglycerides of short-chain dibasic acids.

Food and beverage compositions can be made that combine the present low calorie fat materials with dietary fibers to achieve the combined benefits of each. By "dietary fiber" is meant complex carbohydrates resistant to digestion by mammalian enzymes, such as the carbohydrates found in plant cell walls and seaweed, and those produced by microbial fermentation. Examples of these complex carbohydrates include brans, celluloses, hemicelluloses, pectins, gums and mucilages, seaweed extract, and biosynthetic gums.

Sources of the cellulosic fiber include vegetables, fruits, seeds, cereals, and man-made fibers (for examples, by bacterial synthesis). Commercial fibers such as purified plant cellulose, or cellulose flour, can also be used. Naturally occurring fibers include fiber from whole citrus peel, citrus albedo, sugar beets, citrus pulp and vesicle solids, apples, apricots, and watermelon rings.

These dietary fibers may be in a crude or purified form. The dietary fiber used may be of a single type (e.g. cellulose), a composite dietary fiber (e.g. citrus albedo fiber containing cellulose and pectin), or some combination of fibers (e.g. cellulose and a gum). The fibers can be processed by methods known to the art.

Vegetable proteins, e.g. soy protein, and other crude or isolated proteins are particularly useful in combination with the present low calorie fat materials. Examples of vegetable protein sources are soybeans, safflower seed, corn, peanuts, wheat, peas, sunflower seed, cottonseed, coconut, rapeseed, sesame seed, leaf proteins, keratin, algae and kelp, and single cell proteins such as yeast. If desired, animal protein sources can be used. These include animal proteins such as those derived from milk, poultry, meat, and/or fish. A typical example of a suitable animal protein is egg albumin.

Of course, judgment must be exercised to make use of appropriate low calorie fat materials and combinations of the fat materials with other food ingredients. For example, it would not make sense to use a combination of sweetener and fat material in a bland food product. The fat materials and fat material/ingredient combinations are used where appropriate, and in appropriate amounts.

Many benefits are obtained from the use of the low calorie fat materials in food and beverage compositions, either when used alone or in combination with the ingredients discussed above. A primary benefit is the calorie reduction achieved when the fat materials are used as a total or partial fat replacement. Another benefit which follows from this use is that the total amount of fats in the diet is reduced. Foods or beverages made with the low calorie fat materials instead of triglyceride fats will also contain less cholesterol, and the ingestion of these foods can lead to reduced serum cholesterol and thus reduced risk of heart disease.

A related benefit is that the use of the low calorie fat materials allows the production of foods and beverages that are stable in terms of shelf stability and penetration stability. Tempering is usually not needed with many of the low calorie fat materials as it is with triglyceride fats. Compositions made with the fat materials have acceptable organoleptic properties, particularly taste and texture.

Dietary foods can be made with the low calorie fat materials, to meet special dietary needs, for example, of persons who are obese, diabetic, or hypercholesterolemic. The fat materials can be a major part of a low-fat, low-calorie, low-cholesterol diet. The fat materials can be used alone or in combination with drug therapy or other therapy. Combinations of food or beverage products made with the low calorie fat materials can be used as part of a total dietary management regimen, based on one or more of these products, containing the fat materials alone or in combination with one or more of the above-mentioned ingredients, to provide one or more of the above-mentioned benefits.

It is known that certain fatty esters will inhibit the absorption of cholesterol. Compositions in accordance with the present invention are also useful for lowering serum cholesterol by inhibiting the absorption of cholesterol without causing an anal leakage effect. This can be achieved by systemically (generally, orally) administering to animals susceptible to or afflicted with hypercholesterolemia successive therapeutically effective doses of the low calorie fat materials of the foregoing type. Generally the dosage is from 0.1 gram to 5 grams of the present fat materials.

Analytical MethodsI. Rheology Measurements5 A. Sample Preparation

The low calorie fat material is melted in a microwave oven at from 150°F (66°C) to 170°F (77°C). This takes approximately 2 minutes. The melted fat material is held at 100°F ± 5°F (37.8°C ± 3°C), and a 3 gram sample is weighed into a Solo^R plastic souffle cup. The sample is then allowed to recrystallize at 100°F ± 5°F (37.8°C ± 3°C) for 24 hours. After the 24 hour time period has elapsed, the sample is taken to the viscometer in an insulated cup and the viscosity is measured.

B. Ferranti-Shirley Viscometer Operation Procedure

15 A Ferranti-Shirley viscometer is used for the viscosity, yield point, and thixotropic area measurements. A cone is put into place, and the viscometer temperature is adjusted to 100°F (37.8°C). The chart recorder is calibrated, and the gap between the cone and plate is set. The cone speed is checked, and the cone and plate temperatures are equilibrated to 100°F (37.8°C). The panel controls are set. Sufficient sample is placed between the plate and the cone so that the gap is completely filled. The temperature is allowed to stabilize at 100°F (37.8°C) for about 30 seconds, and then the cone rotation and recording are started. A rheogram for the fat material is recorded and analyzed to determine the viscosity, yield point, and thixotropic area. Viscosity is measured at shear rates of 800 seconds⁻¹, 100 seconds⁻¹, and 10 seconds⁻¹.

II. Liquid/Solid Stability Measurement

25 The sample is heated until it completely melts and is thoroughly mixed. The sample is then poured into centrifuge tubes at 100°F ± 5°F (37.8°C) ± 2.8°C. The samples then are allowed to recrystallize for 24 hours at 100°F ± 5°F (37.8°C ± 2.8°C). The samples are then centrifuged at 60,000 rpm for one hour at 37°C. The percent liquid separated is then measured by comparing the relative heights of the liquid and solid phases.

III. Solid Fat Content Measurement

Before determining SFC values, the fat material sample is heated to a temperature of 158°F (70°C) or higher for at least 0.5 hours or until the sample is completely melted. The melted sample is then tempered at a temperature of 40°F (4.4°C) for at least 72 hours. After tempering, the SFC value of the fat material at a temperature of 100°F (37.8°C) and other tempering is determined by pulsed nuclear magnetic resonance (PNMR). The method for determining SFC values of a fat by PNMR is described in Madison and Hill, J. Amer. Oil. Chem. Soc., Vol. 55 (1978), pp. 328-31.

40 The following Example I intended to be further illustrative.

Example I

45 Methyl esters of a fully hydrogenated soy oil and a touch-hardened soy oil, blended in a 55/45 ratio (16 kg), and 2 kg. of an 15 wt. percent solution of potassium hydroxide in methanol are mixed in a stainless steel batch reactor. This mixture is then heated to 86°F (30°C) with agitation for 1 to 2 hours at atmospheric pressure. During this time, a portion of the methyl esters are saponified. A vacuum is then pulled on the system to remove the last traces of methanol.

50 Powdered sucrose (3 kg.) is added to the soap/ester mixture to give a 5:1 molar ratio of ester to sucrose. Potassium carbonate is then added to the mixture (approx. 0.5 wt. percent of the reaction mix) to catalyze the transesterification. This mixture is agitated and heated under vacuum at about 275°F (135°C) for up to 2-1/2 hours to form the mono-, di- and trisucrose esters. Small quantities of tetra- and pentaesters are also formed during this stage. Additional methyl ester (19.5 kg) which has been preheated to 275°F (135°C) is added to bring and maintain the molar ratio of the esters to sucrose to 12:1. When the reaction conditions stabilize at 275°F (135°C), a nitrogen sparge is used to improve agitation and promote methanol stripping. As the reaction occurs, the reaction mixture becomes viscous and then thins out. This second reaction stage lasts approximately 4 to 8 hours.

After the reaction mixture has become thin, it is cooled to between 149 °F (65 °C) and 185 °F (85 °C). The crude reaction mixture is agitated with a dilute solution of methanol, sodium chloride and water. The volume of this wash solution is equal to 20% to 40% of the reaction mixture volume. The mixed phases are then allowed to settle for approximately 30 to 60 minutes. The lower settled phase which contains the soaps, excess sugars and methanol is drawn off and discarded. The upper settled phase which comprises the refined sucrose polyesters is washed again. Usually 2 to 4 washes are used.

The sucrose polyesters are then washed with a 1% glacial acetic acid in water solution at 10% to 20% of the volume of the reaction mix. This is followed by water wash of the same volume.

The reaction mix is then dried to remove moisture at 176 °F (80 °C) under 10 mm Hg or less vacuum for 30 to 60 minutes. Filtrol 105 (0.5 wt. percent), and a filter aid (0.5 wt. percent) are added and the mix is agitated at 167 °F (75 °C) to 185 °F (85 °C). The slurry is separated by filtration or other means until there is less than 0.1 wt. percent fines. The liquid is then passed through a 1 micromillimeter filter.

The refined and bleached reaction mix is put into a stainless steel batch reactor to distill off the bulk of the methyl esters. The distillation takes place at 374 °F (190 °C) to 482 °F (250 °C) under approximately 5 mm Hg of vacuum. This step is complete when it is visually evident that the distillation has slowed down.

The sucrose polyester is then deodorized in a stainless steel batch deodorizer or other suitable device at 374 °F (190 °C) to 482 °F (250 °C) under a vacuum of about 5 mm Hg with steam sparging. Deodorization is continued until the methyl ester content is below 200 ppm. The deodorizer contents are then cooled while using inert gas sparging. After cooling to 149 °F (65 °C), the deodorizer is brought to atmospheric pressure. The sucrose polyester is stored in clean stainless steel drums.

This produces a sucrose polyester product having the fatty acid composition specified in Table I. Rheology and effectiveness at preventing laxative side effect are listed in Table 2.

The results shown in Tables 1 and 2 illustrate that sucrose polyesters prepared according to Example 1 have the properties of the low calorie fat materials of the present invention. The third column in Table 1 shows the properties of a liquid sucrose polyester prepared according to a method known to the art, and not falling within the present invention.

Table 2 compares the rheology and effectiveness at preventing laxative side effect of the two samples. Example 1 has rheological properties according to this invention; the liquid sucrose polyester does not. The liquid sucrose polyester results in a 15% oil loss when ingested. By contrast, the sucrose polyesters prepared in Example 1 result in 0% oil loss, showing that they are very effective at eliminating laxative side effect.

Table I
Sucrose Polyester Composition

	<u>Example I</u>	<u>Liquid Sucrose Polyester</u>
<u>Fatty Acid Composition</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Others	2.3	3.4
C ₁₆	9.4	8.6
C ₁₈	50.8	5.7
C _{18:1}	20.4	45.6
C _{18:2}	14.8	31.7
C _{18:3}	0.3	0.4
C ₂₀	0.6	0.6
C ₂₂	1.4	0.0
<u>I. V.</u>	<u>47.6</u>	<u>110</u>
<u>Ester Distribution</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
Octa	79.0	71.1
Hepta	19.2	24.0
Hexa	1.8	4.9
Penta	0.1	0.1
< Penta	0.1	0.1
<u>SFC Profile</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
50°F. (10.0°C)	64.3	0
70°F. (21.1°C)	53.6	0
80°F. (26.7°C)	43.0	0
92°F. (33.3°C)	21.1	0
105°F. (40.6°C)	2.7	0
98.6°F. (37.0°C)	11.9	0
<u>DSC Behavior</u>	<u>°C.</u>	<u>°C.</u>
Complete Melt Point	42.5	-20.0
Maximum Melt Point	39.4	-35.0
Heat of Fusion	11.7	10.6

TABLE II

Comparison of Physical Properties of the
Sucrose Polyesters with Effectiveness Against Laxative Side Effect

	LSE Effectiveness On Loss (%)	Rheology			Liq/Solid Stability (100%-8 Sep.)
		Viscosity	Yield Point	Thixotropic	
		$\frac{P_{0.5} \text{ (poise)}}{800 \frac{\text{sec.}^{-1}}{\text{sec.}^{-1}}}$	$\frac{P_{0.1} \text{ (dynes/cm}^2\text{)}}{10 \frac{\text{sec.}^{-1}}{\text{sec.}^{-1}}}$	$\frac{\text{Area}}{P_{0.5}^2 \text{ (dynes/cm}^2\text{-sec.)}}$	
<u>EFFECTIVE:</u>					
Example 1	0	1.03 (10.3)	4.86 (48.6)	$14.96 (17.496) 1.658 \times 10^5$	100
<u>INEFFECTIVE:</u>					
Liquid Sucrose Polyester	15	0.21 (2.1)	0.21 (2.1)	0.21 (2.1)	-NA-

Claims

1. A low calorie fat composition of matter comprising an edible, wholly or partially non-digestible low calorie fat material selected from sugar fatty acid polyesters, sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters and mixtures thereof, the sugars and sugar alcohols containing from 4 to 8 hydroxyl groups wherein the

sugar fatty acid polyesters and sugar alcohol fatty acid polyesters have at least 4 fatty acid groups, wherein the fatty acids are mixtures of fatty acids containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms, wherein the sugar fatty acid polyesters that are sucrose fatty acid polyesters have an octa ester content of at least 70% , and herein the fat has, at 100°F (37.8°C):

- 5 (a) a viscosity of at least 0.25 Pa.s (2,5 poise) at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 0.4 Pa.s (4 poise) at a shear rate of 100 seconds⁻¹, and a viscosity of at least 2.5 Pa.s (25 poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹;
 - (b) a yield point of at least 250 Pa (2500 dynes/cm²)
 - (c) a thixotropic area of at least 0.20×10^5 Pa.s⁻¹ (0.2×10^6 dynes/cm²-sec)
 - 10 (d) a liquid/solid stability of at least 50% defined as the weight percent of a sample not separating as a liquid after centrifuging at 60,000 RPM for 1 hour at 37.8°C.
2. A composition according to Claim 1 having a viscosity of at least 0.5 Pa.s (5 poise) at a shear rate of 800 seconds⁻¹, a viscosity of at least 20 Pa.s (200 poise) at a shear rate of 10 seconds⁻¹.
 - 15 3. A composition according to either one of Claims 1 and 2 having a yield point of at least 500 Pa (5000 dynes/cm²).
 4. A composition according to any one of Claims 1-3 having a thixotropic area of at least 0.75×10^5 Pa.s⁻¹ (0.75×10^6 dynes/cm²-sec).
 - 20 5. A composition according to any one of Claims 1-4 having a liquid/solid stability of at least 90%.
 6. A sucrose fatty acid polyester low calorie fat compositions according to any one of Claims 10-5 wherein at least 80%, preferably at least 90% by weight of the mixture of fatty acids comprises a mixture of palmitic, stearic, oleic, linoleic and behenic acids.
 - 25 7. A low calorie fat composition according to Claim 6 wherein the mixture of fatty acid comprises from 9% to 12% palmitic acid, from 35% to 53% stearic acid, from 19% to 43% oleic acid, from 2% to 17% linoleic acid, from 0% to 2% linolenic acid, from 0% to 2% arachidic acid, from 0% to 10% behenic acid and from 0% to 2% erucic acid.
 - 30 8. A low calorie fat-containing food composition comprising non-fat ingredients and fat ingredients, wherein from 10% to 100% of the total fat ingredients is a composition according to any one of Claims 1-7.
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Patentansprüche

- 40 1. Kalorienarme Fettzusammensetzung, umfassend ein aus Zuckerfettsäurepolyestern, Zuckeralkoholfettsäurepolyestern und Mischungen hiervon gewähltes eßbares, ganz oder teilweise unverdauliches, kalorienarmes Fettmaterial, wobei die Zucker und Zuckeralkohole 4 bis 8 Hydroxylgruppen enthalten, die Zuckerfettsäurepolyester und Zuckeralkoholfettsäurepolyester mindestens 4 Fettsäuregruppen aufweisen, worin die Fettsäuren Mischungen aus Fettsäuren mit 8 bis 20 Kohlenstoffatomen sind, die Zuckerfettsäurepolyester, welche Saccharosefettsäurepolyester sind, einen Octaestergehalt von mindestens 70% aufweisen und worin das Fett bei 100 °F (37,8 °C):
- 45 (a) eine Viskosität von mindestens 0,25 Pa·s (2,5 Poise) bei einer Scherrate von 800 Sekunden⁻¹, eine Viskosität von mindestens 0,4 Pa·s (4 Poise) bei einer Scherrate von 100 Sekunden⁻¹ und eine Viskosität von mindestens 2,5 Pa·s (25 Poise) bei einer Scherrate von 10 Sekunden⁻¹;
- (b) eine Fließgrenze von mindestens 250 Pa (2500 dyn/cm²);
- 50 (c) einen Thixotropiebereich von mindestens $0,20 \times 10^5$ Pa·s⁻¹ ($0,2 \times 10^6$ dyn/cm²-sec);
- (d) eine Flüssig/Fest-Stabilität von mindestens 50 %, definiert als Gewichtsprozent einer Probe, welche sich nach Zentrifugieren bei 60000 U·min⁻¹ während 1 Stunde bei 37,8 °C nicht als Flüssigkeit abscheidet, aufweist.
- 55 2. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1 mit einer Viskosität von mindestens 0,5 Pa·s (5 Poise) bei einer Scherrate von 800 Sekunden⁻¹, einer Viskosität von mindestens 20 Pa·s (200 Poise) bei einer Scherrate von 10 Sekunden⁻¹.

3. Zusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1 und/oder 2 mit einer Fließgrenze von mindestens 500 Pa·s (5000 dyn/cm²).
4. Zusammensetzung nach mindestens einem der Ansprüche 1-3 mit einem Thixotropiebereich von
5 mindestens 0,75 x 10⁵ Pa·s⁻¹ (0,75 x 10⁶ dyn/cm²·sec)
5. Zusammensetzung nach mindestens einem der Ansprüche 1-4 mit einer Flüssig/Fest-Stabilität von mindestens 90 %.
- 10 6. Kalorienarme Saccharosefettsäurepolyester-Fettzusammensetzung nach mindestens einem der Ansprüche 1-5, wobei mindestens 80 Gew.-%, vorzugsweise mindestens 90 Gew.-% der Mischung der Fettsäuren eine Mischung aus Palmitin-, Stearin-, Olein-, Linol- und Behensäure umfassen.
7. Kalorienarme Fettzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 6, wobei die Fettsäuremischung 9 % bis 12 %
15 Palmitinsäure, 35% bis 53 % Stearinsäure, 19 % bis 43 % Oleinsäure, 2 % bis 17 % Linolsäure, 0 % bis 2 % Linolensäure, 0 % bis 2 % Arachinsäure, 0 % bis 10 % Behensäure und 0 % bis 2 % Erucasäure umfaßt.
8. Kalorienarme, fetthaltige Lebensmittelzusammensetzung, umfassend Nichtfettbestandteile und Fettbe-
20 standteile, wobei 10 % bis 100 % der gesamten Fettbestandteile eine Zusammensetzung nach mindestens einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 7 sind.

Revendications

- 25 1. Composition de matière grasse basses calories, comprenant une matière grasse basses calories comestible, entièrement ou partiellement non digestible, choisie parmi des polyesters d'acides gras de sucre, des polyesters d'acides gras de sucres-alcools et leurs mélanges, les sucres et les sucres-
30 alcools contenant de 4 à 8 groupes hydroxyles, composition dans laquelle les polyesters des acides gras de sucre et les polyesters d'acides gras de sucres-alcools comportent au moins quatre groupes acides gras; les acides gras sont des mélanges d'acides gras contenant de 8 à 22 atomes de carbone; les polyesters de sucre et d'acides gras qui sont des polyesters d'acides gras de saccharose ont une teneur en octa-ester d'au moins 70 % et la matière grasse présente, à 37,8 °C (100 °F) :
(a) une viscosité d'au moins 0,25 Pa.s (2,5 poises) à un taux de cisaillement de 800 secondes⁻¹,
une viscosité d'au moins 0,4 Pa.s (4 poises) à un taux de cisaillement de 100 secondes⁻¹ et une
35 viscosité d'au moins 2,5 Pa.s (25 poises) à un taux de cisaillement de 10 secondes⁻¹;
(b) un point de limite élastique d'écoulement d'au moins 250 Pa (2500 dynes/cm²),
(c) une aire de thixotropie d'au moins 0,20 x 10⁵ Pa.s⁻¹ (0,2 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²·sec),
(d) une stabilité liquide/solide d'au moins 50 %, définie comme étant le pourcentage pondéral d'un
échantillon qui ne se sépare pas sous forme de liquide après une heure de centrifugation à 60 000
40 tours par minute à 37,8 °C.
2. Composition selon la revendication 1, ayant une viscosité d'au moins 0,5 Pa.s (5 poises) à un taux de cisaillement de 800 secondes⁻¹, une viscosité d'au moins 20 Pa.s (200 poises) à un taux de cisaillement de 10 secondes⁻¹.
- 45 3. Composition selon l'une des revendications 1 et 2, ayant un point limite d'écoulement plastique d'au moins 500 Pa (5000 dynes/cm²).
4. Composition selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 3, ayant une aire de thixotropie d'au moins
50 0,75 x 10⁵ Pa.s⁻¹ (0,75 x 10⁶ dynes/cm²·sec).
5. Composition selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 4, ayant une stabilité liquide/solide d'au moins 90 %.
- 55 6. Composition de matière grasse basses calories de type polyester d'acides gras de saccharose, selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 5, dans laquelle au moins 80 %, de préférence au moins 90 % du poids du mélange des acides gras comprennent un mélange des acides palmitique, stéarique, oléique, linoléique et béhénique.

7. Composition de matière grasse basses calories selon la revendication 6, dans laquelle le mélange des acides gras comprend de 9 % à 12 % d'acide palmitique, de 35% à 53 % d'acide stéarique, de 19 % à 43 % d'acide oléique, de 2 % à 17 % d'acide linoléique, de 0 % à 2 % d'acide linoléique, de 0 % à 2 % d'acide arachidique, de 0 % à 10 % d'acide béhénique et de 0 % à 2 % d'acide érucique.

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8. Composition d'aliments contenant de la matière grasse basses calories, comprenant des ingrédients non gras et des ingrédients gras, composition dans laquelle de 10 % à 100 % des ingrédients gras totaux forment une composition selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 7.

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